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THE
INTERNATIONAL REVIEW
OF THE
RED CROSS



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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

FOURTH YEAR — No. 42

SEPTEMBER 1964

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FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

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SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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SPANISH

Cuatro aniversarios. — Centenario del Primer Convenio de Ginebra. — Presidencia del Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja (457ava Circular).

GERMAN

Vier Jahrestage. — Der Hundertste Jahrestag der Ersten Genfer Konvention.¹ — Präsidentschaft des Internationalen Komitees vom Roten Kreuz (457. Rundschreiben).

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The Centenary of the First Geneva Convention

The last issue of the International Review was devoted to the Centenary of the "Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field."

We now reproduce the main passages of an article which we published years ago and in which Max Huber stressed the importance of the Geneva Convention, analysed various provisions thereof and showed how its origin and development were linked to the Red Cross movement.¹

We also publish extracts from the speeches made during the ceremony commemorating the signing of the Geneva Convention and then give an account of the celebration which was held on August 22, 1964, in Lausanne, at the Swiss National Exhibition. This demonstrated the general respect which the Swiss people hold for that event of one hundred years ago, and of which the centennial anniversary is an opportunity to express their attachment for the National Society and for the International Committee, the founding body of the Red Cross movement.

The First Geneva Convention lives on in the Conventions which have followed it, particularly in those of August 12, 1949, which extend protection to further categories of victims. In spite of the increased destructive force of modern weapons, the widening of the Conventions' scope is indicative of the power of the humanitarian ideal (Ed.)

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¹ August 1939. This article is entitled "La Convention de Genève et la Croix-Rouge" and was published in French in the *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*.

THE GENEVA CONVENTION AND THE RED CROSS

However important the improvements introduced into the First Geneva Convention by the various revisions, the essentials were already contained in the 1864 original.

First : all establishments and hospitals for the reception and treatment of wounded and sick soldiers, and the personnel attached to them, are immune from capture and from acts of destruction otherwise admissible under the rules of warfare. The Convention designates this special legal status of the military medical services by the somewhat inexact term : " neutrality ".

Second : this special protection also covers such voluntary aid as may be performed by the civilian population in favour of the wounded.

Third : sick and wounded soldiers are received and treated without regard to the side upon which they have fought.

Fourth : a heraldic emblem, the red cross in a white field, is created for the distinguishing sign of hospitals, ambulances, transports of wounded, and the personnel protected under the terms of the agreement.

* * *

The First Geneva Convention was, and is still, an instrument of manifold significance. In giving the army medical services a privileged legal status, it rendered them both more efficient and more respected than before. It was a milestone in the history of the treatment of sick troops on active service. If international

law has since made notable strides in the direction of putting humanitarian checks upon the conduct of war, this is directly and incontestably due to the Geneva Convention. The Declaration of St. Petersburg in 1869, prohibiting the use of certain types of projectile was a first step on the way ; the Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907 were stages of particular importance in this development, the final stage to be reached so far being the Geneva Conventions of 1949. But the First Convention of Geneva had broken the ground.

Thus the beneficent effects of that pioneer accord were felt in many ways, but nowhere perhaps as decisively and fruitfully as in the Red Cross.

To take the outward and visible first. The red cross in a white field—the Swiss colours reversed—was proposed by General Dufour, leader of the Swiss delegation and President of the diplomatic conference of 1864, as the emblem of the medical establishments and their personnel. The symbol gave the name, and both were extended to the voluntary aid societies. Would a world movement like the Red Cross have been possible but for the beauty and simplicity of these two outward attributes with their profound and impressive implications, clear and intelligible to all ?

But more valuable to the movement even than the title and symbol with which the Convention endowed it, were the contents of the treaty itself, the two basic ideas of which cannot be too greatly insisted upon. First, the principle of voluntary, private assistance incorporated into the military medical services. The Convention of 1864, inspired by Dunant's immediate experience at Solferino, gives a large place to the enlistment of improvised aid to be given by the population of the war zone, but the Geneva Committee, a year earlier, had stressed the necessity of creating an organisation in peace-time to ensure that that aid should be as complete and efficient as possible when the army has need of it.

The idea of voluntary aid was Dunant's and his friends'. It was new in that it had not existed in that form and application before them. But what was absolutely unprecedented and unheard-of was that an instrument of international law should protect such free private charity wherever it was exercised within the radius of war.

The second principle, which has shaped the course of events even more decisively, is the Convention's declaration that wherever sick and wounded soldiers are concerned, no distinction shall be drawn between friend and foe. All progress in military medical practice, all health precautions for the troops and efforts to keep these functioning well in spite of, and in the midst of, war, directly serve the interests of every army, and each belligerent can only gain by developing these measures to the full. But strangely and inhumanly enough, until the time of the Geneva Convention nobody had ever given any thought to these important matters. Military medical statistics in the World War show how enormously the standard of care for wounded and sick affects the general condition of the troops, and go to prove that considerations of simple expediency would suffice to create a military medical organisation of great excellence.

But the principle that an immense work of aid, calling for untold courage and devotion, for the benefit of enemy soldiers on an equal footing with those of one's own forces, embodies an idea of moral, not material, interest. That idea was the real cornerstone, not only of the Geneva Convention, but also of the Red Cross as a universal movement. It is the source, the justification and the safeguard of the neutrality by which the Red Cross stands or falls.

Relief for sick and wounded lies outside the sphere of conflict, in principle and purpose it is as close to one side as the other, and that is why all Red Cross work, whether in peace or war, must always bear the stamp of a complete absence of individual bias ; the help offered must be detached from all allegiance to groups or parties, whatever they may be. To Dunant the idea of equal treatment for friend or enemy was something to be taken for granted. And so thought the women of Castiglione, whose cry, "Siamo tutti fratelli !" resounds through Dunant's *Memory of Solferino*, and awoke such an echo in the world which he brought to share his own boundless compassion for the victims of war.

Sceptics may disparage the noble idea of aiding one's enemy like one's own ; they will say that, being based on reciprocity, it suits the book of all belligerents, and indeed there is no gainsaying the fact itself. This service *is* of use and profit to all. But the other

fact remains, that this fundamental principle of the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross sprang from no cold computation of selfish interests, but from the pure humanitarian urge of consciences grown vitally aware that above the hatreds and dissensions of the world, each man remains his brother's keeper. Neither the treaty of 1864 nor the Red Cross then entering upon its career, would have stood firm and grown, holding their large place in the world's esteem, had they been built upon mere considerations of utility and not upon the highest instinct with which the human spirit has been endowed.

* * *

We may ask why the Geneva Convention should have taken so long to come about. Here, as in all historical events, irrational factors play their part. The moment waits upon the predestined individual, the executive genius. Social and spiritual conditions, the origin and nature of which we can analyse and to a certain extent understand, must also be propitious. The idea of which Dunant and the Geneva Public Utility Society's Committee of Five became the advocates, had been long in the air.

Less than ten years before the Convention, Florence Nightingale's heroic work in the Crimean War had made known the terrible deficiencies of the military field hospitals. At the same time the Italian Palasciano, the Frenchman Arnault and others had lifted up their voices in protests similar to hers. Democratic and pre-socialistic ideas, beginning to gain a foothold in Europe, helped to put a higher price upon human life, whilst the progress of medical science opened up new vistas for the treatment of wounded and sick. It was a period of an increasing exodus from the churches, and many people were eager to rally to the service of a truly Christian ideal free from denominational ties.

But all these circumstances together and others besides, could do no more than create a favourable climate for the idea to thrive in once it was no longer latent but had become a reality, the men it was waiting for having at last emerged. It needed more than Dunant alone. His winged, prescient vision and irresistible mission-

ary power, both through the written word and the magnetism of his personality, lent the idea its effulgence and set it in impetuous motion. But to seize that meteoric flame and make it yield a lasting, creative heat, it needed such men as those who were Dunant's collaborators from the first ; the great and truly humane soldier, General Dufour, with his mature wisdom ; Moynier, the jurist and philanthropist with his vast experience of men and things ; the eminent medical authorities, Appia and Maunoir. Ardour and prudence, inspiration and experience, a vision that embraced the world and a clear-sightedness that saw what limits must be set, and where to set them, all these qualities were united in that unique company of pioneers.

The history of international treaties has no parallel for the rapidity with which the idea of Dunant and his friends became incarnated in the Geneva Convention. In 1862 *A Memory of Solferino* appears, in 1863 the Geneva Public Welfare Society creates the Committee of Five with Dufour at his head. In October of the same year sixteen governments are represented at a private conference at which the fundamental principles of the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross are clearly formulated as they stand today. And less than a year later comes the diplomatic conference at which, on the 22nd August 1864, the Geneva Convention is signed, an innovation in the domain of international law, not only by reason of its contents, but also in that it is open to all the States not represented at the conference to adhere to it at any time. This alone suffices to make it an epoch-making event.

As we have said, the time was ripe. But this would not have availed unless Dunant had come at the right moment, carrying his idea to all the courts of Europe, and defending it with a fervour and brilliancy before which the dangerous obstacles of military and bureaucratic opposition were swept away. Nor, we repeat, would Dunant alone have achieved anything lasting, had not Dufour and Moynier, with unerring insight, realised the need of moderation and formulated their proposals accordingly.

* * *

Having now told what the Geneva Convention is and what it means to the Red Cross, let us now reverse the question and ask what the Red Cross means to the Geneva Convention.

The object of the Red Cross was to be an auxiliary to the regular medical services with armies in the field. The crying inadequacy of these establishments up to the middle of the 19th century called the movement into life. The revised Conventions provided for the co-operation of the Voluntary Aid Societies belonging to neutral as well as belligerent countries, and these have participated since in almost all recent war relief actions, sending not only many doctors, nurses and ambulance-men, and quantities of medical material, but often entire ambulances complete with personnel.

It is obviously hard to assess the importance in wartime of voluntary collaboration in general and that of the Red Cross in particular, for much depends upon the development of the various military medical corps on the one hand, and of the national Red Cross societies on the other, and much upon the extent to which military operations affect one side and the other . . .

However efficient and well organised a military medical service may be, if the war is long and especially if it involves the national territory, the Red Cross will be able to render the army invaluable aid, both directly and by relieving it of certain tasks of special difficulty, for the specific rôle of voluntary work is to step in when the need arises for extraordinary efforts. For this reason the Red Cross will never lose its value for the army medical services in wartime.

The material help afforded in transport and treatment of wounded and sick is doubtless of great importance to the army, but what makes the work of the Red Cross irreplaceable is the moral support it gives the army with which it co-operates. Supposing the protection of medical personnel and establishments, which is a means of protection for war-victims themselves, as granted by the Geneva Convention, had been a mere matter of military expediency and the enlightened policy of governments. Is it likely that those measures, however beneficent their effects, would ever have taken a fast hold upon the emotional consciousness of fighting

troops ? Surely not. And yet for every soldier in the field, the Red Cross spells something of comfort and security. This is because the Red Cross societies' twenty million members, spread over the whole world, have made the movement familiar and popular in the best and highest meaning of the terms. Even if the man in the street only half knows what the Red Cross actually is, he identifies it in his mind—and that is all that really counts—with the idea of ever-ready help, untainted by self-interest and offered to all who suffer. Often those in the thick of war are more alive to chivalry and human values than are the publicists behind the front ; the soldier does not theorise and cavil, to him the name and emblem of the Red Cross stand for a work of brotherly aid inspired and performed in a spirit which should command the respect of all, and the inviolability of which has been rightly made secure. This moral prestige is at least as sure a safeguard against breaches of the Geneva Convention in wartime as are the penalties which military law designs for such offences, nor is it the least significant factor that army high commands take into consideration whenever the question of Red Cross inviolability comes up for debate.

Thus in the past, the paths of the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross have always run parallel. Hard upon the first ratification came the first national committees, sometimes the adherence of a government gave the lead to the foundation of a national society, elsewhere countries wishing to create a national Red Cross induced their governments to sign the treaty. It is not enough for a national Red Cross to exist, however. It must be a living force, ceaselessly advocating its cause by means of works which win respect for the principles of the Geneva Convention.

* * *

But on the other hand the Red Cross is not, nor has it ever been an institution existing by virtue, or in the shadow of the Convention, simply as an auxiliary of military medical services. On the contrary, it has always existed very much in its own right, and it was clear from the outset that its wartime efficiency would depend upon an intense activity in peacetime too. Hence the training of men and

women for the ambulance corps, and the organisation of Red Cross hospitals.

From the first, Dunant had envisaged another activity which has always lain outside the range of tasks assigned to the Red Cross under the terms of the Convention, namely relief work in calamities of nature. This is only one aspect of the definitely peacetime activities which expanded so powerfully after the World War, and for which the League of Red Cross Societies has laboured with such conspicuous success. In many national societies this work predominates, its objects varying widely from country to country, for historical and social factors always exercise a great influence in this respect. Red Cross societies not only work in the field of public health and life-saving in their widest application, they also undertake the most varied tasks of social welfare. The nature of the work is of secondary importance to the great conditions, laid down in 1859 on the very battlefield of Solferino, that Red Cross help should be pioneer help for hitherto undiscovered ills, or Samaritan help, offered when others have passed by unheeding.

We must here recall yet another National Society's task which also, strictly speaking, lies outside the sphere of the Geneva Convention, but has its roots in that neutrality which is the basic principle of the treaty. What we mean by neutrality in this connection is the attitude which permits a State or institution to be in contact simultaneously with all the parties to a war, and thus able to bring its humanitarian influence to bear in the interests of soldiers and their families on every side without distinction.

Any institution is free to aid one or all belligerents with gifts of medical material, foodstuffs and suchlike, and also with personal assistance, so long as the helpers do not come into touch with the adversary. It is only a question of practical possibilities, financial means and individuals' willingness to give personal service. But to protect the interests of war-victims who belong to one party but find themselves within the other's sphere of domination, something more is required. For this it is necessary to have the confidence of both sides, and even then the intermediary, given the state of mind prevailing in wartime among belligerents and their sympathisers, has a difficult and thorny task.

The iron reserve which a neutral institution like the Red Cross and especially the International Committee, is compelled to maintain at such times is not seldom interpreted as cowardice, or even as partiality towards one side or the other. But the slightest relaxation of that reserve, either to defend itself against misjudgment or for any other reason, would mean the end of its ability to serve the victims of all the parties in the war. That and no other is the Red Cross task—to help sufferers, not to sit in moral or judicial judgment upon nations and their policies. One international treaty, the Geneva Convention, is its immediate affair and that it defends with tenacity and energy, jealously watchful that its provisions be respected by all concerned.

The Geneva Convention dealt with the treatment of wounded and sick soldiers in armies in the field. They are not the only victims of war for whom the Red Cross feels responsible. There are the captives of every different category ; the severely injured and incurable, those who need treatment in more favourable climates, the evacuated populations in enemy territory, the numberless families whose scattered members can only have news of each other through a service operating on both sides. This manifold distress heaps Herculean labours upon the Red Cross of neutral countries, especially upon the International Committee to which tradition and the statutes of the International Red Cross assign the task of intervening in war, civil war or internal disorder, when none but a neutral intermediary could serve.

When we look back over the periods of war and realise what the National Societies of neutral countries and the ICRC have been able to achieve apart from assistance rendered to wounded and sick soldiers, during the Spanish Civil War for example, we feel justified in saying that the wide irradiation of the principles of the Geneva Convention beyond its actual sphere is of scarcely less importance to the humanitarian activity of the Red Cross than its specific task under the treaty.

The diplomatic conference which met to revise the Convention in 1929 concluded at the same time a Convention relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War, which represents a thorough regulation of this problem in a sincerely humane spirit. For the other

categories of war victims general treaties can be neither so complete nor so universal. But the fact that it was possible to lessen the hardships of war victims other than prisoners, either by means of agreements between belligerents or between belligerents and neutrals, or else by concessions obtained from one or the other singly, all this goes to prove how mightily the spirit of the Convention has evolved, and how far it has outgrown its original boundaries. The institutions which range themselves under the sign of the Red Cross have no higher or more responsible duty than to keep that spirit alive in its integrity.

* * *

Of late years a still wider prospect has opened out before the Red Cross, showing once more how creative is the principle of neutrality which inspires the movement. Here again the International Committee is chiefly concerned in carrying out a task beset with untold difficulties. Whenever violent political changes or grave internal dissensions, no matter in what corner of the world, cast certain individuals or groups within the nation into particular distress or expose them to inhuman treatment, a loud outcry arises for intervention by the Red Cross. Often enough the alarm is based upon rumours difficult or impossible to verify, and often also it is raised by persons whose interest in the Red Cross has never moved them to do the least thing towards furthering any of its national, let alone international, endeavours.

Humanitarian efforts of this kind, so general as to render it as difficult to define as to limit them, are particularly onerous and even thankless, for they reveal all the disproportion between the hopes set upon us and our possibilities of fulfilling them. If even in civil wars where the situation created by the two parties' refusal to recognise each other as legitimate belligerents multiplies the obstacles that Red Cross action has to surmount, how much greater and more numerous are these where intervention of any kind may have all the appearance of an attempt to interfere in a country's internal domestic affairs. The extreme prudence which the Red Cross is obliged to impose upon itself in such cases is not seldom misin-

terpreted, and yet its only hope of alleviating distress or averting hardships for those it is called upon to help is by exercising the utmost tact, and working as unostentatiously as possible. Repeated interventions or protests which are more likely than not to be utterly ineffectual, could only result in a gradual frittering away of Red Cross authority in the world, and confidence in its neutrality and objectivity would go. This is a risk to be avoided at all costs, for it is essential that the movement guard its whole resources, moral, personal and material, intact for the performance of its tasks within the vastly enlarged but not unlimited framework of the Geneva Conventions. For the Red Cross, as elsewhere, the maxim holds good, to take the wide view and set one's sights high, but also to recognise one's limitations and do one's best within them.

* * *

It is not enough to contemplate the vast range of activity now covered by the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross, nor even to watch vigilantly for new tasks as they arise. Neither can suffice without an organisation maintained steadily at the level of all great enterprises, present and to come.

The strength of the entire movement lies in the national societies and their allied organisations. These, the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies, can only do their part adequately if the movement is represented in every country by a sound and respected national society, and if the national societies are able to express their sense of partnership by giving powerful, material support to international actions.

Wherever it exists, the Red Cross must be equal to its obligations in three respects :

It must consist of men and women willing to contribute their own person to the cause, and serve the sick and wounded, either in war or disaster relief, in the capacity of doctors, nurses and ambulance men. Doubtless direction and administration are necessary and demand much personal devotion, but the heart of the Red Cross beats where those who have heard the call for help are out courting danger and privations in the direct work of rescue.

The stronger these active Red Cross contingents, the better they are equipped and trained, the more clearly their nation will understand what the Red Cross is.

All does not depend of course upon numbers and percentages, which are inevitably largely determined by the social and economic structure of the country concerned, but they are important as symptoms of the vitality of the Red Cross idea in the nation's consciousness. When unusually great tasks crop up demanding extraordinary means, only a Red Cross organisation of more than ordinary magnitude and prestige is able to reach and stir the whole nation by its appeals, and mobilise the prosperous of the land to support a great gesture of voluntary aid.

Organisation and mass suffrage, personal readiness to serve and material resources, all these the Red Cross needs if it aspires to be equal to its great and numerous obligations. But vital above all other things is the Red Cross spirit. Without it the Red Cross would be merely an organisation for its own sake like so many others. But where the true ideal animates even a small Red Cross society, it can impress the people with it, and win through step by step to its due status within the nation and, this attained, to the material substance it requires.

The spirit of the Red Cross is the offering of self, the willingness to do one's helping in one's own person. The ambulance corps, going defenceless into danger to succour not only compatriots and friends but enemies as well, expresses this spirit in its perfection. And second only to this supreme affirmation of human brotherhood is the work of those who serve the cause in epidemics and natural calamities, and wherever else the personal deed of charity is decisive.

All Red Cross work must bear the hall-mark of this spirit. It must be strong in the representatives dealing with belligerent governments or with the contending factions in civil wars and other forms of internal strife. Not only must these delegates possess the diplomat's tact and skill, and often the soldier's bravery and steadfastness, but they must also be capable of a disregard of self, an equanimity in the face of suspicion and ill-will such as hardly anyone but missionaries are expected to display.

It is not given to all, nor are all required, to perform such

immediate Red Cross services as these. Less is demanded of other Red Cross workers, but two things equally of all, precisely those which the creators of the Geneva Convention deemed fundamental : that their service be voluntary, and that it be faithful to the principle of absolute neutrality.

Voluntary service means that the work is the outward token of an inward acceptance of the idea of service without personal advantage, a labour offered freely for no wage. True, a great organisation like the Red Cross, besides its honorary directors and their assistant staffs, cannot do without other workers too, for whom their work is at the same time vocation and livelihood. These collaborators, content with very modest emoluments, are very conscious of the difference in kind between Red Cross work and any other. No one can foresee how greatly national circumstances may cause Red Cross organisations to enlarge their scope, but it will always remain of primordial importance that unremunerated, voluntary collaborators form their main element, that they shun bureaucracy, and that the greater part of their financial support come from contributions which express the readiness of members and the people as a whole to make sacrifices when their national society makes an appeal.

Neutral service means preparedness, so far as means and principles permit, and with complete impartiality, to help those who are in need of help and willing to accept it. Red Cross aid is not a declaration of sympathy for a party, a State, or an idea : it sees only the human being and his distress. In every conflict in which it is called upon to act, the more equally it is able to assist both sides in its humanitarian capacity, the more clearly its true nature and purpose come to light, and the less difficulty it encounters in the execution of its tasks.

We cannot uphold the Red Cross spirit unless we are vividly mindful of it at all times, and seek to give it expression continually in deeds. The Red Cross is perhaps more necessary today than it has ever been, and the fact that the times are all against it is only a confirmation of this certitude. Innate egoism and acquired love of ease are naturally no friends of self-denying service, but they are not the only adversaries. The modern State, in its struggle for

existence, lays claim not only to the men, but also to the women and even the youth of the nation, and the further it pushes this invasion of private life, the less room is left for any voluntary action on the citizens' part. In the face of this contemporary phenomenon there is surely ample reason to ask, as the Red Cross does, that its active work be recognised as of equal value to the State-organised services for the progressive co-ordination of the total forces of the nation. Like the new political systems, the prevailing trend of thought repudiates rather than encourages the principles of voluntariness and neutrality. The widespread movement towards centralisation and the extension of State authority to all aspects of life without exception, can have but little use for unregimented, individual effort, being all directed towards demonstrative mass achievements ; in such programmes the moral forces which voluntary work so strikingly develops and releases can have but little place.

As for the idea of neutrality, it is currently considered not only as more and more impracticable, but even hardly intelligible at a time when political parties and social classes everywhere, like the nations themselves, either stand drawn up against one another in fiercest opposition of interests or ideas, or else take the reverse course and seek their force in an unbroken uniformity and compactness of political and every other kind of opinion imposed upon the people.

But their very supposed irrelevance to the hour throws into relief the Red Cross principles' profound relevance to the eternal lines of human history. It is because the values enshrined in them must never be lost, that the Red Cross must guard and defend them with all the greater vigilance at periods when there seems no place, and almost no comprehension, for them anywhere.

But however clearly we may discern the nature, value and necessity of the Red Cross, we must arm ourselves against two objections likely to sap our confidence and courage to go forward against all odds.

On the way to the high and distant end of making a righteous world, the influence of single individuals, with few exceptions, can only be very slight and indirect. Often such efforts defeat rather

than serve their ends, because their authors omit to take human nature into account and thus run counter to it, and to the fundamental conditions which lie at the base of human societies. These are errors into which the Red Cross has always been careful not to fall. Holding fast to realities, it recognises as terrible, but also as certain, that at its present stage of development the human race is still in constant and immediate danger of those spasmodic waves of destruction which burst upon it, not only out of surrounding Nature, but, more dire still, out of the savagery and miseries of human nature itself.

The Red Cross, taking the recurrence of catastrophe for granted, looks beyond it to the victims, since victims there are and will be for a long time yet. It suggests a concrete and immediate task which everyone can help to fulfil, doing something worth while here and now, directly with personal labour or indirectly with material and moral support. Those who are the first to lend a helping hand to relieve present ills are not the last to work consciously and realistically towards a future from which such things will have disappeared.

Whilst not dealing lightly with the above objection, we need not take it more tragically than it deserves. It is less dismaying than doubt which might more reasonably lame our efforts if we did not take a stand against it. This doubt attacks us when we look at our achievements. Even if we confine ourselves to the comparatively modest task of helping the victims of war and other disasters, is there not an immense disproportion between the distress which faces us, and our means of alleviating it? In countries with a powerful Red Cross and well established State and private welfare institutions, it can be said that relief is equal to the need. But where these are lacking, or when a long drawn-out war or any civil war confronts the Red Cross with extraordinary or unprecedented situations, we often experience a melancholy sense of falling far short of our obligations. The discrepancy is greatest between the hopes the public pins to the Red Cross and the impossibility of fulfilling all of them in cases where the aid must come in great measure and over a very long period from Red Cross societies abroad.

But we should be able to admit deficiencies without losing heart ; on the contrary, it is a reason to redouble our efforts. We may also take comfort in the reflection that a labour of love has a worth that cannot be expressed in terms of visible successes, influence and usefulness. It has invisible virtues. Every Red Cross worker, whatever his religion or philosophy of life, will find the true value and meaning of his Red Cross work if he looks for it in that same sanctuary of meditation within which he seeks and finds the meaning of existence.

With the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross, the pioneers of 1863 and 1864 laid the twofold foundation of a great edifice which has been built up to vast dimensions through the years, and stands today, on its base and in its solid superstructure, as firm as ever. Far from having outlived their purpose, our age of cleavage and threatened destruction on every side has brought the spirit of the first Geneva Convention and the Red Cross to the summit of their usefulness, because they represent a safety zone within which those who, on the outside, no longer speak or understand each other's language, may and will still meet in human kindliness and comprehension. This is the Red Cross mission for peace, not less great for being indirect.

All these considerations show us the magnitude of our obligation and responsibility as custodians of the Geneva Convention and the Red Cross, which by our efforts must be kept undiminished in their outward and inward integrity, and in their power to serve and to endure.

MAX HUBER

Geneva Convention Commemoration

On August 22, 1964, an impressive ceremony took place at the Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne, to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field. The celebration was held before the pavilion housing the stands representing the work of the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross.¹

A procession passed through the Exhibition grounds. It comprised a Swiss army medical detachment with its lorries and ambulances bearing the sign of the Red Cross, numerous deaconesses, nuns and nurses representing all the country's nursing schools, voluntary Red Cross hospital assistants, members of the Junior Red Cross and the Swiss Samaritans Association, first aid workers from the French, German and Swiss Red Cross Societies as well as other groups. The pageant was met on a large esplanade by numerous dignitaries and guests including the founding bodies of the Red Cross and representatives from the countries which first signed the Geneva Convention. The presence was noted of representatives from the Swiss Federal authorities and from the Cantons of Geneva and Vaud, members of the International Committee of the Red Cross, delegates from the League of Red Cross Societies and the leaders of the Swiss Red Cross.

In a nearby showcase was displayed the actual original Convention on loan from the Federal Archives. Visitors could also admire the painting by the French artist Armand Dumaressq lent for the occasion by the Geneva State Council.²

Several speakers stressed the profound significance of the events in Geneva a century ago. The gist of their speeches is given below.

We would add that music was provided by a band and this moving ceremony was concluded to the chiming of the Exhibition bells.

¹ Plate.

² This was reproduced in the August 1964 issue of the *International Review*. The picture represents the signing of the Geneva Convention on August 22, 1864, and its usual place is in the "Alabama Room" of the Geneva Town Hall. It is the property of the State of Geneva.

Mr. Gabriel Despland, *President of the Swiss National Exhibition*

On February 17, 1863, five noble-hearted men whose names should be recalled with respect and gratitude, set up in Geneva the "International Standing Committee for Aid to Wounded Soldiers". General Guillaume-Henri Dufour was elected President. He had at his side Henry Dunant, Gustave Moynier, Dr. Louis Appia and Dr. Theodore Maunoir. Their aim was to convene an international conference in order to "remedy the inadequacy of army medical services in the field". At the invitation of the Swiss Government, this conference met the following year in Geneva. Its work resulted in the signing of the First Geneva Convention on August 22, 1864 by the representatives of twelve States. It is due to this Convention that the generous ideas of Dunant and his Genevese and foreign friends were introduced into international law. It was, as it were, a birth certificate of that wonderful institution known as the Red Cross which, since then, has been extending its benefits to the whole world and has aroused in innumerable people an ever-ready devotion to the alleviation of suffering and distress whether the result of ignorance, the vanity of men or the whims of nature.

The International Committee of the Red Cross wished the centenary of this event, one of the most striking in the history of mankind, to be celebrated publicly at the Swiss National Exhibition. We feel proud and grateful for the honour thus bestowed on the Exhibition and, through it, on the Swiss people of which it is the offspring and the symbol . . .

. . . We do not wish to appear vainglorious of the achievements of our ancestors, but we can be justifiably proud that there were in our country noble-minded men whose generosity, combined with an acute sense of realism, led to the creation of such an institution as the Red Cross, recognized and respected today in every country of the world, whatever sign is used as its emblem. We wish to express our admiration and our gratitude to them and to all who from the outset, in foreign countries, understood them and gave them their backing. They must have had uncommon courage and love of their fellow-men to have accepted, a hundred years ago, the tenet that the world is populated by human beings, every one possessing a spark of divine grace whatever may be their beliefs, nationality or race and that all are entitled to the same respect and consideration.

The international Convention which they promoted has guided the human mind towards greater comprehension, mutual assistance and charity whenever man is stricken by the hardships of unfortunate circumstances. May we always have the resolute will to do them honour and to follow their example.

You will allow me to mention in conclusion that apart from its universal humanitarian action, the Geneva Convention which we are celebrating today, has had beneficial repercussions on Switzerland's place in the world. It has, as it were, hallowed our country as a land of asylum and refuge and as a centre of international relief actions. It has contributed very considerably to the respect of our neutrality and it has at the same time made our people understand that their neutrality is justified not by egoism or indifference but by permanent duty to human solidarity. It is this need for mutual assistance, for human contact and respect which the National Exhibition is intended to assert. That is why I thank you wholeheartedly for having associated it with the tribute to those men who were worthy of their country and humanity, and to a work which we should all be eager to carry on and promote with a will.

Mr. Léopold Boissier, *President of the International Committee of the Red Cross*

It is fitting that this Exhibition, this eloquent testimony to the faith of the Swiss people in their future, should include within its programme a display by an institution which, born in Switzerland, has extended its message of hope to all mankind.

That a group of confederates had the courage to stand united against a tyrannical power in 1863 and that the following year, on August 22, 1864, twelve States signed the First Geneva Convention, these are indeed events worthy of celebration. Moreover, the signing of this Convention is the starting point of a decisive development in international law and, in a wider context, in relations between governments.

Although from that time on States were still able to resort to war, they were no longer free to act with unbridled violence in any manner which suited them and to treat their enemies as they wished. Strict rules obliged them to respect the wounded, the sick,

and the medical services of the armed forces in the field. And it was at that time that there appeared on the battle-field the sign of the red cross on a white background, the inviolate emblem of law and humanity combined, to protect the enemy who formerly would have been defenceless.

The impetus having been given, governments in the course of the century were to sign the four Geneva Conventions which constitute humanitarian law, one of the most noble achievements of our civilization.

After the wounded and sick of armed forces on land, it was the turn of the victims of fighting at sea to be given protection. Then, after the experience of the First World War the indefeasible rights of prisoners of war became embodied in a third Convention. Finally, in 1949, a fourth Convention of great importance was added. It provided an indispensable safeguard to civilian populations. Henceforth, belligerents must respect non-combatants, of whatever nationality, race or faith they might be. No one may be imprisoned without proper trial. The taking of hostages, forced labour and deportation are forbidden. The delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross are empowered to visit internees and demand that their conditions be improved and their families be informed. Had this Fourth Convention been in force in 1939, millions of human lives would have been saved.

And that is not all. Civil war, often more terrible than conflicts between States, is no longer exempt from the authority of humanitarian law. Opposing forces may no longer make war without mercy and inflict terrible reprisals on a beaten foe.

Those who take up arms against their own government, those who try to disrupt established order, however guilty they may be, are also protected by some of the provisions of the Fourth Convention. They may be assisted and given relief by delegates of the International Committee . . .

. . . The work of the Red Cross is continually expanding. It calls upon all men and women of goodwill and particularly on the Swiss people to espouse the cause not only of the National Red Cross Society but also of the International Committee which, I repeat, sends its delegates throughout the whole world for the accomplishment of missions which are often dangerous and always necessary. Let us therefore assess today calmly and with courage the duties which await us tomorrow.

Mr. Jacob Burckhardt, Representative of the Swiss Federal Council

In his address on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary celebration last year, the President of the Confederation mentioned that this event called for modesty. The same may be said of today's ceremony : a call for modesty and a call upon our profound gratitude to that generation which one hundred years ago proved itself able to convert an ancient tradition of humanity on the battle-field—but applied only sporadically up to that time—into an obligation under international law. The praise for this goes to private initiative. The work was sanctioned when official representatives of twelve States, replying to the Federal Council's invitation to attend a conference in Geneva in August 1864, signed the First Geneva Convention. It was due to the broad vision and the courage of these men that this " Magna Carta " for humanity—so brief but so important—saw the light of day.

Thanks to the kindness of the Federal Archives Department, which is responsible for its preservation, this original Convention is on display here today.

Although this is an instrument of international law, this charter is in its proper place here. It testifies to a spirit which our country recognized as its own : a spirit of humanity radiating to all nations without discrimination. Under the impetus given by the Confederation, the Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864, is the starting point of Switzerland's humanitarian and international vocation and of a policy to which we have held firm ever since.

We are fully aware of the honour paid to our country by the 1864 Conference when it decided to adopt the inverted colours and the emblem of our country as the sign of protection and neutrality applicable to the wounded and medical services.

Today nearly every government in the world is bound by treaty to respect this emblem both in peace and war in order to maintain its effectiveness.

The value of the sign of the Red Cross on a white background has often been put to the test in circumstances which were nothing short of atrocious. Thanks to the validity of that sign, suffering has been alleviated and innumerable acts of fellowship have been inspired. In the course of a century the popularity of this emblem has become immense.

The Federal Council was well placed to see to what extent the

Geneva Convention has conquered the world in the course of its hundred years of existence. As the custodian and administrator of the Convention, it is indeed the Federal Council which receives ratification and adhesion from governments . . .

. . . When he opened the Geneva Diplomatic Conference in 1864 with a simple and realistic speech, General Dufour said :

“ Gentlemen, the object of our present meeting is so simple . . . it is merely a question of the neutralization of ambulances and medical personnel of armed forces in the field as well as of the wounded. This is the sole purpose.”

These were his words. But the fundamental idea was a fertile seed. This sole purpose was not the ultimate aim. Three other Red Cross Conventions followed that of the 22nd of August 1864, and the texts have been revised on several occasions to adapt them to circumstances. The work of codification is still going on, living and growing . . .

. . . Allow me to conclude by recalling August 22 at the National Exhibition of 1939, when the Federal Councillor Motta ended one of his last speeches as a statesman by saying :

“ Switzerland is jealous of this Convention against suffering, for she knows that August 22, 1864, is a memorable date for mankind. If the international complications of today should result in war—may the Lord preserve us from this—and if providence wills that Switzerland should remain outside the conflict, she would not forget her duty to further the work of the Red Cross ”.

We did not forget. And although today the world situation is fundamentally different from what it was in the dark days of August 1939, neither will we forget in the future.

Mr. A. von Albertini, *President of the Swiss Red Cross*

The providence which has spared our country from the turmoil of war since the signing of the 1864 Geneva Convention also accounts for the fact that it is precisely in our country that the Conventions concerning the protection of war victims are little known.

Nevertheless the Geneva Conventions are of great importance for us too. This is true for each one of them whether for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded of Armies in the Field ;

the Treatment of Prisoners of War ; or Protection of Civilians in Wartime.

The Swiss Red Cross and the authorities of our country are in duty bound to make the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 known, not only in the army but also and more especially among the population which ought to know its rights and duties in the event of war or occupation by an enemy Power.

One of the first consequences of the Geneva Convention for Switzerland was the establishment of a National Relief Society in 1866 under the name of " National Aid Society to Servicemen and their Families " which later became the Swiss Red Cross. It was an institution which, in conformity with Dunant's proposals, was set up to reinforce the Army Medical Service by making available voluntary personnel and material. Although none of the ten articles of the 1864 Convention lays down the rights and duties incumbent on " Medical Voluntary Aids " nor stipulates that the nursing volunteers should be given protection under the terms of the Convention, revised versions of the Convention do. This protection is however conferred on them only if their National Relief Society has been recognized by their Government. In Switzerland this recognition was granted for the first time in 1903 by the " Federal Ordinance concerning Voluntary Relief to the Wounded and the Sick in Time of War ". Article I of the " Federal Ordinance relative to the Swiss Red Cross " of 1951 stipulates : " The Swiss Red Cross is recognized as the only National Society of the Red Cross on the territory of the Swiss Confederation and, as such, it shall in time of war lend assistance to the Army Medical Service."

The particular situation of the Swiss Red Cross arises from these legislative instruments which, moreover, define the close ties uniting our National Society to the Army Medical Service . . .

. . . Under the terms of the First Geneva Convention, National Red Cross Societies of States not involved in a conflict may be called upon to send medical units to the battle-field abroad. The Convention expressly specifies that such aid shall in no way be considered as intervention in the conflict.

On several occasions the Swiss Red Cross has agreed to make available in this manner doctors and nursing personnel and sometimes fully appointed teams and ambulances. This was the case in particular during the Boer War, the war in the Balkans, the war in Finland, on the East German front and later in the Congo and the

Yemen where our Society is operating at the request of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

It is a great honour for Switzerland to have custody and control of the Geneva Conventions. But this does impose upon our country a great responsibility and the obligation to maintain at a high level in our country these Conventions and the humanitarian ideal which inspired them. This implies also the duty to disseminate them and to apply their principles each time it is possible for a peaceful and neutral State to do so, by preparing our country's defence and by carrying out humanitarian actions abroad.

Mr. W. Ch. J. M. van Lanschot, *President of the World Veterans Federation*

It is a very great honour for me to be present today at this ceremony commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the " Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field ". It is a particular privilege for me to express to the International Red Cross, in the name of the twenty million former combatants and war victims represented by the World Veterans Federation, our profound admiration for the invaluable contribution it has made, both by its ideals and its activities, to the implantation and development of humanitarian ideas in the world.

Who better than these twenty million former combatants and war victims can testify to the profound reality of the Geneva Conventions and of the efforts accomplished by the Red Cross in order that the principles of these Conventions may be put into effect and thus prevent or alleviate suffering. One must have experienced the anguish of battles, the rigours of captivity, the immeasurable tragedies inherent in war, to feel and understand fully the significance of the Red Cross and all it represents in the field of moral comfort and hope. And those who, like me, found themselves in concentration camps to which the Red Cross protection could not be extended, know how much this absence made the darkness which surrounded them even more gloomy.

Symbol of the perennality of human values, the Red Cross demonstrated by its existence and its action that even in the most cruel moments when men confront men, intent on destroying each

other, compassion, understanding and co-operation can prevail.

And that is why today's commemoration is so important for us. Tribute must indeed be paid to the 1864 Convention as well as to the other Conventions and agreements concluded later under the auspices of the Red Cross and which have prevented or alleviated innumerable sufferings. But beyond these practical effects, whatever their importance, the Geneva Conventions have played and still play a capital rôle in the setting up of an international community. Signed and ratified by most of the world governments and respected by them in practice, these Conventions decisively show that men can understand each other and co-operate towards constructive aims. They must serve as examples to all those who are working towards the extension and widening of international agreements, thus making possible, through international co-operation, the establishment of peace in liberty. And this is why, Mr. President, the World Veterans Federation is particularly happy and proud of the relations it maintains with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies.

I am sure to express the unanimous feelings of our twenty million members in telling you how keen we are to support with all our energy and enthusiasm the efforts of the Red Cross and in so doing to strengthen our action with a view to promoting international co-operation and thus contribute to the reign of peace in liberty.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Presidency of the International Committee of the Red Cross

GENEVA, September 4, 1964.

Circular No. 457

*To the Central Committees of the National
Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun, Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Mr. Léopold Boissier has expressed the desire to be relieved of his functions as President, which he has exercised for nine years.

The International Committee has acceded to his request with great regret and has shown Mr. Boissier its profound gratitude for the outstanding service he has given the Red Cross and the cause of humanity throughout his fruitful career.

Mr. Léopold Boissier will continue to sit on the International Committee. The International Committee of the Red Cross, on a unanimous vote, has elected as his successor Mr. Samuel Alexandre Gonard. He has been a member of the Committee since 1961 and as a member of the Presidential Council he has been actively associated with the direction of the institution. In its name he has carried out important missions, notably in Algeria, Central Africa, the Yemen and in Cyprus.

Mr. Gonard will assume the office of President as from October 1, of this year.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Born in 1896 in Neuchâtel, Mr. Gonard is a Bachelor of Laws, was formerly Colonel commanding an army corps and also professor in the military section of the Federal Polytechnical School in Zurich. As a professional army officer, he attended the courses of the Paris Ecole Supérieure de Guerre, of which he holds the degree. In 1939 Mr. Gonard was appointed Chief of Staff to General Guisan who was himself a member of the ICRC from 1945 onwards. Mr. Gonard was then promoted Head of Operations and Adjutant General of the Army Staff. Later he was appointed Divisional Commander and subsequently Army Corps Commander. In this capacity he was for eleven years a member of the National Defence Commission.

He has for several years taught political science within the framework of world affairs, in his capacity as Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

Thanks to his intelligence and human qualities, his energy and experience, Mr. S. A. Gonard seems, in the opinion of his colleagues, to be particularly suited to assume the heavy task which has fallen to him. They know that by electing him to office they have ensured that the Presidency is in good hands.

He invites National Societies to give him their indispensable support, of which they have been so unsparing in the past.

Yours sincerely,

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

° INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION IN CYPRUS¹

The *International Review* has mentioned on a number of occasions the ICRC's humanitarian action in Cyprus.

Following the recent events, the ICRC, in August, has been examining with its delegate in Nicosia, Mr. Pierre Boissier, the emergency measures necessary to assist the victims.

Two Swiss doctors fly to Cyprus.—After examining Mr. Boissier's report, the ICRC decided to despatch immediately Dr. Paul Ruggli and Dr. Michel Jequier to Cyprus to reinforce its delegation. The former left for Cyprus on August 18 and the latter the following day; the services of these two doctors will be of immense value for the many people who have been deprived of medical care as a result of the situation on the island.

National Societies contribute.—Several National Red Cross Societies have sent the ICRC contributions in kind, mainly in the form of medical supplies, in order to assist in bringing help to the victims of the conflict.

The American Red Cross, for instance, sent to Nicosia 108 phials of albumin serum, worth 12,000 Swiss Francs. The German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany sent blood plasma, dressing material and various medicaments to a value of 32,000 Swiss Francs. The International Committee delegation handed these valuable donations to the Paphos hospital. A gift of 5,000 Dollars from the Canadian Government is expected at any moment and the Indian Red Cross has just despatched by air 65 parcels of medicine and clothing, worth 15,000 Rupees. Other Societies have sent medical supplies direct to the Greek Cypriots.

¹ *Plate.*

The ICRC and supplies to the Turkish Cypriots.—The ICRC intervened in order to arrange for the release of goods aboard the s/s " Genslik " on charter to the Turkish Red Crescent and which had been lying several weeks in Famagusta harbour. The ICRC delegates induced the Cyprus Government to allow entry of 390 tons of pulses.

Relief for detainees and search for missing persons.—The ICRC delegation is continuing its unremitting humanitarian activities under Article 3 common to all four Geneva Conventions and relative to victims of internal conflicts. The ICRC delegates have been able to visit places of detention in both camps. They are continuously seeking missing persons and frequently intervene to secure the release of arrested civilians and to unite dispersed families.

In general the ICRC's assistance to the victims of the trouble in Cyprus takes a variety of forms in order to settle innumerable problems of a humanitarian nature which have arisen as a result of the breach and the fighting between the Greek and Turkish communities. Intervention by a neutral organization enjoying the respect of all parties, as is the case with the ICRC, is continually required for all sorts of reasons.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Congo

Mr. Geoffrey G. Senn, delegate, and Mr. Laurent Marti, assistant-delegate, are at present in the Congo where the International Committee is faced with urgent problems such as the hardships inflicted on the population as well as on fugitives and refugees from the regions where fighting is going on. The wounded and the sick, the shortage of medical supplies, conditions of detention in various places, all have given rise to innumerable negotiations by the two delegates. In the course of his discussions both with the leaders of the anti-government factions and with the authorities, Mr. Senn insisted that the essential humanitarian principles of the Geneva Conventions should be observed.

At the beginning of August and after visiting Albertville towards the end of July, Mr. Senn went to Bujumbura (Burundi) and Rwanda. He endeavoured to determine ways and means of bringing assistance to the population. He also visited prisons and places of detention, including the central prison at Bujumbura. He also tried to negotiate with the leaders of the rebel forces for the evacuation of civilians from the towns which are under the greatest threat. Bukavu in the Kwilu province was one of the places where Mr. Marti went. He visited a prison camp in which the government forces were holding Mulelist rebels.

Yemen

Some twenty persons constituting the new medical and technical team recruited by the Swiss Red Cross to staff the ICRC field hospital at Uqhd in the north-east of the Yemen, arrived there at the end of July, headed by Dr. Edwin Hofmann from Basle.

For three months the doctors and other personnel have been taking care of the great number of wounded and sick, most of

them victims of the war which has now been going on in the Yemen for almost two years. In spite of the intense heat, the new team did not find it too difficult to become acclimatized and all its members are in good health.

It has however to meet difficulties which are a constant threat to the proper running of the hospital in the middle of the desert, due to the extremely rapid wear and tear of the equipment. For instance, the tank-waggon, which is essential to ensure water supply, had been out of action for several days. The daily transportation of 1,550 gallons of water had to be carried out with whatever equipment could be improvised. However, the Saudi Arabian Government has made available another tank-waggon. In addition, the technicians working at Uqhd are displaying endless resourcefulness in seeing to the maintenance of the hospital equipment.

The ICRC Offers its Services

Following the air raids on various places along the coast of the Viet Nam Democratic Republic, the ICRC has offered its services to the National Red Cross Society within the framework of the First and Second 1949 Geneva Conventions (For the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field ; and Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea).

This National Society thanked the ICRC but stated that it did not for the moment have any urgent need.

The ICRC has also conveyed to the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, enquiries from the families of two American pilots shot down on August 5.

Laos

Dr. Jurg Baer, ICRC delegate, left Geneva on August 13 for Vientiane where he joined Mr. André Durand, ICRC general delegate for Asia.

Part of Dr. Baer's mission in Laos entails distributing relief supplies sent by National Societies following the appeal launched by the League of Red Cross Societies on June 8 at the request of the Lao Red Cross and in agreement with the ICRC.

In addition, Mr. André Durand received from the Polish delegate to the International Armistice Control Commission for Laos, letters written by Lieutenant Charles F. Klusmann to his family. Lieutenant Klusmann was flying in a plane shot down last June by the Pathet Lao forces. Mr. Durand had previously delivered

to the authorities of the Neo-Lao-Hak-Sat capture cards printed in Laotian and English. Lieutenant Klusmann's messages were immediately despatched to his family.

A Film in Arabic

The "Red Cross on White Ground" produced for the International Committee of the Red Cross on the occasion of its centenary last year is now available in Arabic. Copies have already been ordered by six Red Crescent Societies.

The film also exists in French, English, Spanish and German. It has been bought by more than forty National Societies as well as by various other institutions.

It will be recalled that "Red Cross on White Ground" is a colour film lasting for twenty minutes and is the work of the Swiss producer Charles Duvanel. Based on authentic documents, it illustrates the humanitarian ideal which has guided the ICRC for a hundred years.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

SOUTH EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC RED CROSS FORUM

An important meeting of National Red Cross Societies of South East Asia and the Pacific took place in Sydney. The general delegate of the ICRC for Asia attended and followed the work with great interest. During his stay in Australia, he was invited—together with Mr. H. Beer, Secretary-General of the League—to go to Canberra for a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Paul Hasluck, and other officials of that Ministry for talks concerning problems of a humanitarian order.

The importance of the Sydney meeting is reflected in the number of participants and the matters discussed, some of which were of a technical nature. We therefore requested Mr. Kingsley Seevaratnam, Assistant Director of the League's Development Programme, to review the proceedings for our readers. It is to him that we owe the following article :

*

The South East Asian and Pacific Red Cross Forum was part of the Development Programme undertaken by the League of Red Cross Societies to strengthen National Societies in all parts of the world. This Forum took place in Sydney, Australia, from the 20th May to the 2nd June 1964, and was intended for all Societies, members of the League, in the south eastern region of Asia and the

Pacific. Delegates from the Red Cross Societies of Australia, Burma, Ceylon, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Federation of Malaya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand took part in this Forum, totalling over 30 representatives. As hosts, the Australian Red Cross Society was responsible for the organisation of the Forum, in collaboration with the League. The aims of the Forum were :

1. To consider ways and means of building a closer bond between the League and individual National Societies.
2. To gain a closer understanding of the activities of our neighbouring Societies.
3. To discuss some of the subjects that were dealt with at the Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross, in 1963, that had a particular relation to the work of National Societies.

The Chairman of the Forum was Mr. L. G. Stubbings, Secretary General of the Australian Red Cross Society, and the Forum was formally declared open by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Eric Woodward, the opening ceremony being held at the Union Centre of the University of Sydney. Present at the opening ceremony were many governmental and regional representatives, as well as the delegations of the National Societies invited. The I.C.R.C. was represented by Mr. A. Durand, its representative for Asia, and the League Delegation was led by Mr. Henrick Beer, Secretary General, accompanied by Dr. Kingsley Seevaratnam, Assistant Director of the League's Development Programme and Miss N. Minogue, Deputy Secretary General of the Australian Red Cross, seconded to the League for the Forum.

With its emphasis on practice, the Forum consisted of plenary sessions and group work alternating with study visits to Australian Red Cross institutions. Discussion groups and technical demonstrations were skilfully combined so that these sessions enabled each Delegation to inform the others of their achievements and projects thanks to the effective and flexible methods used. A specific subject

was selected for each day and introduced by one or two delegations before being discussed by all the participants. Some especially important subjects had moreover been previously chosen to permit the representatives to prepare their questions and answers. At other times delegations were invited to explain "on the black-board" the activities, experiences and problems of their Societies in a given field.

The general subjects, which of course covered all Red Cross activities in peacetime, could thus be successfully examined in detail : from Information and Public Relations Services, to disaster relief, by way of membership recruitment, first aid, nursing, maternity and child welfare, Junior Red Cross, health education and accident prevention, blood transfusion and care of the sick and handicapped. The discussions were, of course, related particularly to the realities in the South East Asian and Pacific region.

Throughout the Forum, various visual techniques were used :— "chalk talks", coloured slides, films, demonstrations. Delegates saw practical aspects of the work of Red Cross in Australia when they visited a Veterans' Hospital, Divisional Headquarters and the Blood Bank.

The success of this meeting may be summed up in the words of the Chairman of the Forum, Mr. Stubbings :

"The Red Cross is a world-wide organisation that has a beginning but will never have an end. For while human needs and suffering continue, and while there are people with the spirit of compassion to offer the hand of assistance and the hand of friendship, there will always be a Red Cross.

We happen to be a group of individuals living at a time when there is still great need in the world. We have seen fit to serve Red Cross and we have been chosen by Red Cross to represent our Societies on this particular occasion. Our responsibilities and our obligations are heavy for when we leave here and return to our countries our work really begins. I think we have all learned a great deal that could be of value to our Societies, but at present we alone possess this knowledge. If we are to relate our experience in a positive way, we will have to convince our Councils, and this is not an easy task. We should not be discouraged if we cannot

NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

Australia

This year the Australian Red Cross is celebrating the jubilee of its foundation. It is a great date for this National Society which, in half a century, has come to assume such an important part in the life of the nation. The International Committee was pleased to associate itself with the event and on August 12, 1964, it sent the following telegram signed by its President, Mr. Léopold Boissier, to Melbourne :

At this time when Australian Redcross celebrating fiftieth anniversary its foundation International Committee Redcross associates itself your society and forms every good wish for success of your humanitarian activities stop I also express our gratitude for your constant efficient support International Committees work stop.

On this occasion, the Australian Red Cross published *Australian Red Cross Jubilee, 1914-1964*, an illustrated booklet giving an account of the main events in its history. The memory is recalled of those who, in August 1914, nine days after the outbreak of war in Europe, gathered in Melbourne to form a branch of the British Red Cross. The enterprising spirit of their successors was the impulsion which led to ever more numerous and useful services, not only in Australia itself but also on several continents in the form of welfare and medical teams, relief supplies of food and clothing in time of natural disaster, and in many other forms. Medical supplies are sent to various parts of Asia and relief and teaching missions have been set up in a number of places.

In Australia the blood transfusion service, started in 1929, has developed to such an extent that since 1954 it is one of the most important services in that country. Ever mindful of social requirements, the National Society provides ambulances with voluntary

achieve immediate results. Our friend from Japan has on several occasions mentioned that we must make haste slowly. We will have to match determination and enthusiasm with patience.

Whether you are here representing the League or representing a National Society, you must make your overall judgment as to the extent that these aims have been achieved. But I have already hinted that the full achievement may take not months, but even years to fulfil.

From Mr. Beer's opening address, we should recall that it was emphasized that the League is a clearing house for National Societies. The League Secretariat is fulfilling its true and proper function only when we are using it. No Society is expert in every field, and the League will need to draw on experts from one Society to help in the development of other Societies. Hence, one of our responsibilities as National Societies is to be prepared to make available our experts if and when we are called upon."

drivers prepared to drop everything to answer an emergency call. It organizes teams of hospital visitors taking cheer and giving helpful occupations to patients. It has set up a talking library for the blind, a picture library for long-term patients, microfilm books for the paralyzed to read without effort ; it assists in certain special therapy for mental patients ; it has 16 convalescent hospitals for ex-service personnel and the disabled.

This booklet also recalls the work of the Enquiry Bureau established in London during the First World War, to help trace wounded and missing men. It developed considerably from 1939 to 1945 and is still active even today. A great deal of work is undertaken by the Red Cross among migrants as they journey to the Commonwealth Migrant Centre. These immigrants are welcomed on arrival and mothers and children are given special care. Everything is done to smoothe the difficulties which are bound to occur on the first contact with a new country.

In addition, social services, ready to assume tasks of all sorts, send Home Helps to families in difficulty, distribute meals to the disabled and help the infirm and the aged. The junior Red Cross too is developing in a remarkable manner and has an important rôle to play in schools.

This cursory glance at the activities of the Australian Red Cross, gives an idea of its active growth over the last fifty years and of its steadfast enthusiasm and efficiency in the service of mankind.

Spain

Centenary of the Spanish Red Cross

The Spanish Red Cross is justifiably proud of being one of the oldest National Societies and it made a point of celebrating the Centenary of its foundation in a striking manner so that it would long be remembered.

On July 4, 1964, in the large auditorium of the Madrid Scientific Research Centre, the National Society welcomed representatives of the authorities, the diplomatic corps, the ICRC, the League, several National Red Cross Societies, and delegations from many parts of Spain. A guard of honour of Red Cross medical orderlies and nurses stood at the entrance of the large hall in which was held the opening ceremony of the Centenary celebration.

Mr. Antonio María de Oriol y Urquijo, President of the National Society, greeted the assembly and made the inaugural speech in which he said inter alia :¹

The 6th of July is the anniversary of the Royal Decree which authorized the foundation of the Red Cross Society in Spain. It was signed by Her Majesty Isabelle II at the request of the Order of the Hospital Knights of St. John.

From the outset, Spain associated with the movement which, started by Henry Dunant, took form and developed under the aegis of the Committee of Five. This Committee convened an international conference in Geneva from October 25-29 in 1863. Sixteen countries were represented ; Spain, by Mr. Joaquín Agullo, Count Ripalda, and Mr. Nicasio Landa, Chief Surgeon of the Army Medical Service.

We all know what was at the origin of the Red Cross. It was not the battle of Solferino ; it was its consequences which horrified the soul of a citizen of Geneva. Stricken with horror and pity he became the samaritan of Solferino. Thus, the institution began with the act of charity described in the parable : without stopping to enquire who the injured man by the wayside was, the good samaritan tended his wounds, gave him comfort and provided him with shelter. This is the true spirit of charity, the true spirit of the institution and it is this which has enabled the movement to grow. We must be ever-watchful that this spirit continues to be a living force for it is the basis of our institution's development.

This spirit of charity has given rise to actions of exceptional importance and which, historically, are of a twofold aspect. On the one hand the Geneva Conventions are a decisive advance in the evolution of international law. These rules have been progressively

¹ *Plate.*

accepted by all States. Revised and completed over the century, they have been extended more and more to provide for assistance to those who suffer and to an ever-greater number of categories of victims. Spain could not stand aside. She was present when this evolution of humanitarian law had to be nurtured and she contributed from the outset in a decisive manner. In practice too, she intervened in a similar fashion.

We cannot give full details here of all the Red Cross activities in the course of this century. The conflicts which have broken out since 1859 have been so numerous as to be almost continuous and millions of men, most of them without being aware of it, owe their lives to the charitable work performed by the International Committee. The moment is perhaps at hand when history should take into account this unobtrusive yet effective action.

The first appearance of the Spanish Red Cross on the international scene was in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian war. In that same year was founded the Central Section of the Ladies of Charity of the Spanish Red Cross, set up and presided over by the Duchess of Medinaceli.

In any outline of the history of the Spanish Red Cross we must mention that the Society went through its trial by fire on May 4, 1872, at the battle of Oroquieta where the Pamplona ambulance, Spain's first, rushed to the scene to bring relief and assistance to the victims.

On October 11, 1863, the Red Cross was called upon to disembark the dead and wounded following the naval combat which took place off Cartagena. Thereafter, that same year, the hospital ship of the Red Cross of Cartagena—the "Buenaventura"—flying the Red Cross flag accompanied the fleet. It was the first hospital ship in the world.

On May 28, 1874, the Spanish Red Cross opened its first field dressing station at Miranda del Ebro to tend the wounded of both sides during the Carlist war. During the cholera epidemic in 1885, its task was enormous. It gave assistance to victims and later intervened once again to alleviate the suffering following the earthquake in Andalusia. These two terrible disasters occurred in the same year and wrought frightful havoc throughout the country.

It was in 1914 that the Red Cross concerned itself with the

training of nurses. In 1915, it inaugurated the first official training course at the Princess Hospital. Subsequently, under the impetus of the enthusiasm sparked off by Queen Vitoria-Eugenia, the first Red Cross nurses training school was established in 1918.

The Spanish Red Cross professional nurses course was officially constituted by royal decree on October 26, 1922. During the African campaigns, Red Cross nurses worked closely with the Army Medical Services. We should today pay tribute to the memory of these brave nurses who displayed such high ideal and absolute faith in their mission, following the example of Florence Nightingale. I wish particularly to recall the memory of the Duquesa de la Vitoria who is the inspiration for all the nurses in our institution ; those nurses to whom I express our sincere admiration and gratitude for the work they have carried out in co-operation with the Sisters of Charity. There is no publicity for this work, but it is nonetheless admired and known by everybody ...

... These are some of the outstanding events of the past century but I do not think we should pause too long to consider the past. We must, however, recognize the merit of those who enabled the work to develop throughout that time. But even more must we give the impetus necessary for the work's future success.

We must take into account the social conditions and circumstances of life today, because it might prove essential for the Red Cross to give up certain functions which it has so far carried out and which are part of the established social services, in order to devote itself to setting up other services to meet needs for which no provision has hitherto been made.

Indeed, health today is a matter of complete physical, mental and social well-being; it is no longer the mere absence of illness. One of the fundamental rights of every human being is the enjoyment of the best possible health and it is in this respect in particular that education in matters of hygiene is a basic necessity because it helps everyone to achieve health through his own efforts and through his personal outlook on life.

The programme this involves is enormous but feasible. Attention must at the same time be given to the social evolution now going on in order that we do not burden ourselves with the continuation of work which is now being taken over by others. We must co-

operate effectively with the medical authorities in every country, planning on an ever-wider scale, not only to meet emergencies but also to contribute to all schemes of preventive measures and rehabilitation. It is thus that we shall bring about improvement in health, which, as we have said, is essential.

The plans of the Spanish Red Cross today may be summarized as follows :

Hygiene instruction for the maintenance or recovery of health through the personal efforts of those concerned.

First aid, including dissemination of basic training thanks to which emergency measures may be taken when necessary, efficiently and without delay. This enables us to train active and devoted volunteers to tend the wounded in time of war and the injured in time of peace not only in the event of natural disasters but also in the daily accidents of modern life. These volunteers are seconded to army medical corps units and their practical work takes the form of co-operation with the armed forces. At this point I wish to convey to these army medical corps units how greatly we appreciate the magnificent spirit with which they carry out their task, for the Red Cross is honoured to be able to count them in its ranks.

Professional and voluntary nurses are given an intensive moral and practical training. They are prepared for the great important social tasks which will be theirs, for instance in the field of pediatrics, rehabilitation, etc. We have three schools which are constantly connected with the medical faculties, to which we here express our appreciation for their co-operation.

Training of our medical teams is undertaken in 43 hospitals and there too we must adapt ourselves to changes arising from the development of social security, which has become increasingly necessary in view of the demands of modern medicine with its constant technical improvements and its ever-more costly means of diagnosis and therapy. There are always injured people who, for one reason or another, are in distress and to whom we must bring assistance which they are unable to afford or obtain from insurance schemes.

This centenary should arouse in us the desire to do our utmost and also the determination to carry out plans within the framework we have just outlined. Accomplishment of such plans should

enable us, the leaders and members of the Spanish Red Cross, to practise with increased efficiency and in a positive manner that charity which inspired our movement from the outset and which will always be the sure foundation for greater understanding among men. In this way, we shall help one another to work for a better world.

Mr. Henrik Beer then conveyed the greetings and congratulations of the League of Red Cross Societies, of which he is Secretary-General, and those of the National Red Cross Societies; several of which responded to the invitation of the Spanish Red Cross by sending delegates to Madrid, where they took part in the various events. Mr. Beer recalled that the National Society in Spain had proved itself capable of adapting its activities to the necessities of the times and he concluded by saying :

For example, its network of first aid posts and its blood transfusion services prove its desire to continue the pioneer work and to be always ready to serve for the benefit not only of the Spanish population but also of other countries when disaster strikes them.

The League is crossing the threshold of the second century of Red Cross existence, and is drawing up a technical assistance programme in order to contribute to the development and establishment on solid bases, of new National Societies in every country having recently acquired independence but not yet possessing a humanitarian institution such as ours. It is our desire that each link in the chain of 102 National Societies be strong. A large part of our development programme is intended to intensify Red Cross activity in Latin America. We are sure that we shall be able to count on the co-operation of the Spanish Red Cross to assist us in helping these sister Societies to which it is so closely attached by the time-honoured bonds of language, tradition, and culture.

For these reasons my most sincere wish at this moment of celebration, is that the Red Cross may always continue its work with the same dynamism as it has displayed throughout its history. Future generations can then be proud of the men who led the movement when it reached its hundredth year, just as these men themselves may feel proud today of the achievements of their predecessors.

Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, then spoke as follows :

The International Committee of the Red Cross, the founding body of our world-wide movement, is happy and proud to convey its hearty congratulations to the Spanish Red Cross on the occasion of its hundredth anniversary.

Your Society and all the Spanish people are entitled to celebrate this centenary with joy and to survey with satisfaction the work accomplished in that spirit personified by Henry Dunant which develops unceasingly to attain results ever wider and ever more remarkable.

In 1863 Spain took part in the preliminary conference in Geneva. It was represented by Count Ripalda, who became the first President of the Central Committee of the Spanish Red Cross, and by Dr. Nicasio Landa, Chief Physician of the Military Medical Services and, throughout his life, devoted to our institution.

The importance of the years 1863 and 1864 cannot be over-emphasized, especially the latter, which saw the birth of the first Geneva Convention.

This Convention was the beginning of a decisive development in the evolution of international law and, in a wider context, of relations between governments.

Although from that time on States were still able to resort to war, they were no longer free to act with unbridled violence in any manner which suited them and to treat their enemies as they wished. Strict rules obliged them to respect the wounded, the sick, and the medical services of the armed forces in the field. And it was at that time that there appeared on the battle-field the sign of the red cross on a white ground, the inviolate emblem of law and humanity combined, to protect the enemy who formerly would have been defenceless.

The impetus having been given, governments in the course of the century were to sign the four Geneva Conventions which constitute humanitarian law, one of the most noble achievements of our civilization.

Spain and its Red Cross were loyal followers of this ideal. Already in 1870 the National Society sent relief supplies to the

victims of the Franco-Prussian War and two years later it again intervened in the Carlist War, taking care of prisoners and the sick in both camps. During the battle of Oroquieta, Dr. Landa and seven other doctors worked with courage, devotion and efficiency worthy of the highest praise.

There is not sufficient time for me to dwell here on all the huge field of activities carried out by the Spanish Red Cross to bring relief to the innumerable victims of the two world wars. I shall merely mention the work in favour of prisoners of war by a commission set up in August 1914 and which was replaced by your Society. I would also recall the repatriation of the seriously wounded and sick and civilian internees ; German, American and British.

I mention these two examples from many others because they gave rise to very close co-operation between the Spanish Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Indeed, as a neutral intermediary between belligerents, it is the International Committee which is the authority for the implementation of the Geneva Conventions. In order to perform this task, it needs the support not only of governments, but also of National Societies.

The tragic events between 1936 and 1939 strengthened the ties uniting the International Committee to your Society and the Spanish people. Thanks to the confidence which was placed in it and to the great understanding with which its delegates met, the International Committee was able to extend its action in a number of fields, some of which were hitherto outside its scope, such as visits to prison camps, interceding in favour of persons condemned to death, exchange of prisoners and hostages, protection and evacuation of children, women and old people, communication of family news and so on.

My point in mentioning these tragic events is just to mark the beginning of great strides in the development of the Red Cross as a result of so many new experiences. It was clearly seen that under the most difficult circumstances, the Red Cross was able to accomplish and even develop its work of charity.

Thus it was that from the end of the last war the International Committee was able, with the indispensable aid of the National Societies, to prepare the revision and extension of humanitarian law. In 1949 four Geneva Conventions, which were ratified by Spain

in 1952, opened up wide horizons full of promise for the Red Cross.

The Fourth of these Conventions is something completely new. It extends the benefits of humanitarian law to civilian populations which hitherto were unprotected. It is appropriate to mention article 3 in particular. This is common to all four Conventions and it enables the International Committee to offer its services in the event of civil war.

It was under the terms of this article of capital importance that the Committee intervened in internal conflicts in many countries over the last twenty years ; in several Latin American republics, in Hungary, Algeria, the Congo and in Asia, the scenes of so many outbreaks of violent conflicts.

Today the delegates of the International Committee are at work in Laos, in Cyprus and in the deserts of the Yemen.

The Red Cross was founded a hundred years ago to assist the army medical services. Since that time it has realized that there is another daily and immediate duty to be discharged among the populations stricken by natural disasters or suffering from misery and want, from hunger and sickness.

The Spanish Red Cross accepted this duty nobly and generously. At the present time its activity is carried on in a variety of ways, thanks to the impetus given by your National Congress of 1959.

You know better than I your numerous hospitals and dispensaries, your nursing schools, your ambulances, the development of your first-aid services, your blood transfusion services, your assistance to disabled children.

That is why your movement has won the hearts of the Spanish people who have feelings of great gratitude towards you.

A new century is opening for the Red Cross, which faces the future with renewed strength, conscious of the solid bonds of unity displayed last year in Geneva during the Centenary Congress. This unity will enable our institution, comprising the International Committee, the League and 102 National Societies, the better to accomplish its mission in any country and internationally. By working for suffering humanity, the Red Cross also serves the cause of peace.

Spain has given to the world a civilization which has never ceased to produce its fine fruits. Its Red Cross is worthy of such a

homeland and I greet it with respect whilst wishing it a future full of promise.

General Camilo Alonso Vega, Minister of the Interior, speaking on behalf of the Government, expressed the good wishes of the Spanish authorities and people on this anniversary, and he declared their pride that the Spanish Red Cross had been one of the promoters of the great universal charitable movement. The Minister was delighted at the growth of the Society and at the important rôle it has played in the life of the nation for a century. He recalled also the rôle of neutral intermediary assumed by the ICRC during the civil war.

On Tuesday July 7, the heads of the foreign delegations were received at the Palacio del Pardo by His Excellency Generalísimo Franco.¹ Mr. Antonio Maria de Oriol y Urquijo, President of the Spanish Red Cross, attended this interview at which Mr. Léopold Boissier spoke in the name of all the delegations. He voiced the goodwill for the Spanish people of the Red Cross movement which delights in the magnificent anniversary celebrated today by the Spanish Red Cross to which he expressed his sincere wishes.

The Municipality of Madrid played its part in the commemoration and invited the dignitaries present to a dinner in the Parque del Retiro. This was followed by a performance of Spanish ballet.

The Spanish Red Cross owns several hospitals and dispensaries throughout the country and had planned a visit to one such hospital in Madrid, the Queen Victoria Hospital. Under the guidance of Dr. J. J. Aracama, of the Inspector General, the chief surgeon of the hospital, and the members of the Spanish Red Cross Supreme Committee, the visitors from abroad and the delegates from the provincial sections of the Spanish Red Cross were able to appreciate the perfect operation of this institution, equipped with the most up-to-date medical and surgical apparatus.

The success of these anniversary days will long be remembered. Conscious of everything that the Spanish Red Cross has contributed to our movement, the International Committee was delighted to take part in the ceremonies which took place in Madrid in July 1964.

¹ Plate.

CHRONICLE

STUDIES DEVOTED TO THE CENTENARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION

Amongst the many publications to which the Centenary of the Red Cross gave rise, mention must be made of the special issue of the *Revue du Service de Santé militaire belge* (Brussels, June 1963) for the praise which it deserves. This review, under the title *Acta Belgica de arte medicinali et pharmaceutica militari*, which is the successor to the "Annales belges de médecine et de pharmacie militaire", made a point of contributing to the Centenary celebrations by a series of articles, some directed towards the past and others examining future prospects, but all in praise of the Red Cross, its works and its possibilities.

Following an introduction by Major-General Geneesheer Geuens, Inspector General of the Army Medical Services, Mr. Henry Van Leynseele, President of the Revising Commission of the Belgian Red Cross Conventions, prefaced this review with an article entitled "The Origin of the Geneva Conventions". The author presents the detailed history of the great work of Henry Dunant. On the basis of texts 100 years old, he shows the remarkably clear-sighted views of this benefactor of mankind when he paved the way for the future Geneva Conventions.

By his interest in the victims of war at sea and of civil wars and, afterwards, by the foundation of a society for the improvement of the condition of prisoners of war, Henry Dunant had seen much further than the first Convention of 1864.

There then follows a history of Belgian aid in 1870 by Lieutenant-Colonel Mathieu, Commandant of the Royal College of Army Medical Services. After having described the political, military and medical climate between 1865 and 1870, the author exposes the principal problems that arose for the Military Medical Service and the growing Red Cross of Belgium.

In 1870 the army found that large scale manœuvres revealed the weakness of the country's defensive force. The Medical Service, limited to the national territory, was able to succour the victims of Sedan, whilst philanthropic societies from Sarrebrücken to Paris were given many opportunities of supplying material and moral aid together with other countries and the International Committee. These actions were the result of the climate created at Geneva and the spirit of the first Convention.

This brief summary can do no more than give an idea of the content of this study of nearly a hundred pages enhanced by engravings and reproductions of maps, synoptic tables and documents.

The next two contributions are by Major-General R. Lefèbvre, on the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and by Colonel R. Belvaux of the Army Medical Staff, entitled " *Inter arma Caritas* ".

In the former a brief historical survey is made of the origin of the Geneva Convention and of its various revisions. Afterwards, the important part played by the Belgian delegation, during the 1949 revision, is stressed. This revision entailed considerable work. It introduced new concepts, especially concerning the protection of civilians. But none of the fundamental principles which prevailed in 1864 by the action of the founders of the Red Cross has been shaken by wars nor called in question during the revisions of the Convention.

Colonel Belvaux' contribution summarizes the work of Henry Dunant. It emphasizes two practical facts : the neutralization of the Medical Services and of the victims of war on the one hand, and the creation on the other hand of the different National Societies of the Red Cross. Both have been subject to many modifications during these hundred years ; nevertheless the call launched by Henry Dunant to the civilian population in order to supply help to the victims of war and to prepare this during peace time still retains its topical and urgent character.

" The protection of medical services in war time " is then dealt with in a twenty-page study by Lieutenant-Colonel Willy Galpérine of the Army Medical Corps. He demonstrates that the Geneva Conventions have made striking progress from the point of view of international law and that they have strengthened and

generalized the desire to protect military victims in war time. In this manner and by their very nature they are a help to the Medical Services in the performance of their task during hostilities.

It might be worthwhile, however, to examine to what extent the application of these Conventions is likely, in our time, to meet with difficulty, considering the development of military tactics, strategy and technology. This problem chiefly occurs in the protection of medical establishments on land. It has to be examined in its political, moral, technical and tactical aspects, bearing in mind the point of view of both protector and protected. If, politically and morally, the will both to grant and to qualify for protection is the first and foremost consideration, difficulties or impossibilities may arise especially in technical and tactical implementation. These obstructions are caused by the very nature of modern weapons and equipment for the detection and identification of military objectives. On the one hand, the means of displaying the authenticity of medical establishments and vehicles should be improved and modernized. On the other hand, protection should be sought remote from military objectives.

One of the most practicable possibilities seems to be a general use of "hospital zones and localities" as provided for in the Geneva Conventions.

However, without calling in question their indispensability, these conventions should be adapted to the realities of modern warfare.

Major Otgd K. Jacobs then replies to the question: "What are we to think of the development of the Army Medical Corps? He answers that medical science for the doctor is first and foremost the saving of human life, the alleviation of suffering and the comforting of those in need. There is especially a lot of suffering in military life, on the battle-field, in the midst of the unbridled fury of the front lines, as well as in areas behind the lines, which are not spared the destructive effect of modern weapons of war. Military medicine finds ample scope in such circumstances.

In examining whether the Army Medical Service will be able to cope with the demands of future war, the author considers what the Geneva Conventions say about the task. They specifically allow the Medical Corps to bear arms and defend its establishments and units.

The following topic dealt with is "Protection of aerial medical evacuation in war time and the Geneva Convention". In this article, Dr. (Colonel) E. Evrard, of the Army Medical Corps General Staff, goes thoroughly into the provisions of that Convention and brings out the imperfections which he perceives in the protective code laid down therein.

The particular protective status which the Geneva Convention has given to aero-medical transportation since 1929 is confronted with impossibilities in its application. The author detects and analyses the technical and legal difficulties causing this situation. The main technical difficulties concern the identification of medical aircraft; the creation and maintenance of a reserve of exclusively medical aircraft and safety regulations for wartime flying. Amongst the legal difficulties, the prior permission dependent on agreement between the belligerents, is responsible for a situation which hinders medical aviation.

As a realistic statute for aero-medical transportation, the author proposes to protect, not the ambulance aircraft but the medical mission. Furthermore, the concept of aircraft for exclusively medical purposes must be dropped and replaced by an attempt to protect any occasional medical mission. The main problem in this case is the identification of the medical mission. Two concomitant methods are proposed: a directly visual method, using rotating light on the aircraft and a radar method, reserved by international convention for aero-medical missions using a special frequency. The prior agreement between belligerents could be dispensed with as it would no longer be necessary. These realistic bases could be sufficient to build that confidence which is the foundation of a valid international statute.

This question is worthy of the attention of all those who are interested in the development of humanitarian law. It seems obvious that any progress in international law could usefully be along the lines of the ideas expressed in this article by Colonel Evrard. As he so rightly says: "The development of ground to air and air to air rockets in air defence and of target-tracking missiles against ground or near ground objectives—and consequently against helicopters also—the progress of supersonic air transport, the introduction of vertical take-off aircraft and the

strides made in methods of detection are all factors which modify profoundly the established conceptions of air warfare. A revolution is going on before our eyes. Who can tell in what conditions helicopters in combat zones or air transport in general will be of use in future conflicts? Who can assess the risks which wounded men will have to run in these changing circumstances and unforeseeable eventualities?

Finally, this special number recalls the rôle played by the Belgian Army Medical Service during the Second World War. This concluding article comes from the pen of Captain (Dr.) W.-J. Broekaert and is the counterpart of the history of this Service during the war of 1870 when the generous action of the Belgian Red Cross first began.

The International Review has pleasure in congratulating the *Acta Belgica de Arte Medicinali et Pharmaceutica Militari* for this fine contribution to the Centenary celebrations of the Red Cross.

H. C.
